



CITY OF STOCKTON

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

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September 4, 2014

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CITY OF STOCKTON'S COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE ORDER ALLOWING PARTICIPATION IN THE DELTA REGIONAL MONITORING

The City of Stockton (City) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the tentative order amending waste discharge requirements to allow for participation in the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP). We fully support the Delta RMP's goal of comprehensive sampling in the Delta, which will improve our collective ability to manage Delta water quality over time. The City supports the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Water Board) efforts to work with dischargers in developing the RMP and the tentative order. It is our understanding that a steering committee and a technical advisory committee have been established to continue the development of the program, which we also support. We offer the following comments on the tentative order at this time.

First, a funding structure has not been identified. We disagree with the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance's request in its letter dated September 3, 2014, that monitoring be significantly increased for wastewater discharges. We request that the Regional Water Board work with the stakeholders to develop the funding structure as soon as possible in a manner that is fair and equitable for all parties. Financial resource for monitoring the Delta should come from all parties throughout the state that rely upon the Delta, and this financial burden should not be focused primarily at POTWs. For this program to be sustainable and adequately funded, all stakeholders need to participate actively and create a fair-share funding structure. We encourage the Regional Water Board staff to continue working with stakeholders to develop an appropriate and sustainable state-wide funding mechanism for the RMP.

Second, there appears to be confusion regarding whether data collected from the Delta RMP will be used for compliance purposes for POTWs. We encourage the Regional Water Board to give significant consideration to this important matter. We believe that



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there will be both opportunities to use the RMP data for POTW compliance purposes in appropriate situations and other situations where doing so would not be appropriate or scientifically defensible. Hence, we encourage Regional Water Board staff to define guiding principles that explain when it would be appropriate to use RMP data for compliance purposes for POTWs (e.g., to define receiving water background quality), and when use of RMP data for assessing POTW compliance would not be appropriate (e.g., for assessing individual POTW compliance with receiving water limitations when monitoring locations are not conducive for doing so).

Finally, the City would like to participate in the RMP's further development and refinement. We have particular interest in assisting Regional Water Board staff in developing appropriate state-wide funding mechanisms and in addressing how RMP data will be used for assessing Delta POTW NPDES permit compliance. I will be following up to discuss how we can best assist Regional Water Board staff on these key issues.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (209) 937-5125 or at Margaret.Orr@stocktongov.com.

C.MEL LYTLE, PH.D., DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



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